

## A Mechanism for Life after Death

When we die, our body is, for example, buried 6 feet underground in a wooden casket. Eventually, the physical body and brain decays into the material around it, into the casket and surrounding dirt. The molecules of the brain start interacting with the molecules of the casket, dirt and further outward into the earth, quantum mechanically. But this physical brain was, in one way or another, correlated to subjective experience. It is not implausible that the subjective experience was in fact correlated with the *information* contained in the physical brain. And, in quantum mechanics, *information is never lost*. Thus this consciousness would continue on, only now the physical part of the information continues to spread out, into the casket, into the dirt around the casket, into the earth, into the earth's atmosphere and, from then on, further out into the universe.

One must make the Schopenhauerian distinction between 'pure awareness' and the more contingent aspects of consciousness like experiencing 'green' when the body is exposed to light of wavelength 540 nm.

The 'information' has to be sensitive to the finite speed of propagation of signals between the brain's various parts, both after *and before* decay. And it certainly may be possible to have a semi-unified collection of information lead to a unified awareness, as it does before the decay of the brain.

This has already been confirmed empirically to some extent. After death of the brain at the EEG level the atoms are still behaving quantum mechanically.

“We can study what people experience when they’ve gone beyond death, and the evidence so far suggests that that entity we call the human mind, consciousness, what the Greeks called the *psyche* that was later translated into *soul*, does not become annihilated just after a person has died, even if we write them a death-note and certify them as being dead. That entity continues. And it continues even when the brain does not seem to be functioning...” (1:08, Fleischmann)

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“...or, you may also argue, well if consciousness was able to continue when the brain was not functioning, why would it suddenly disappear away a few hours later?” (2:24, Parnia)

“There's a sudden change, and there's a beautiful surrounding, beautiful colors, some say beautiful music, and a feeling of unconditional love... and some of them report, not all of them, but some of them report a being made out of light... and this being made out of light oozes out unconditional love to them, and they feel very very warm and happy to be in this place... [this is] well-described and happens all over the world...”, starting at 11 minutes in.

I'd like to point out this is reproducible and falsifiable, and therefore science.

Sam Parnia, Assistant Professor of Medicine, SUNY Stony Brook, in conversation with Robert Lawrence Kuhn, *Is Life After Death Possible?*, Closer To Truth, <https://www.closertotruth.com/series/life-after-death-possible>

Thomas Fleischmann, Technische Universität Hamburg-Harburg, *From life to death, beyond and back*, TED TUHH, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mMYhgTgE6MU>